

the
Merry Widow



Chairman
CLAIR LEATHERDALE

Mr. Leatherdale is Immediate Past President of the Lions Club of Winnipeg and has been associated with the Musical Comedy Guild since it was first organized. Widely known throughout the city for his organizational ability, he is an executive of numerous charitable, athletic and service organizations. His intense interest in the Musical Comedy Guild is one of the major factors in the Guild's success.



Secretary
HILDEGARDE McLAREN

Mrs. McLaren is one of the most industrious members of the Guild Committee. She was Secretary-Treasurer of the Kelvin Girl Grads Choir and Vice-President of the Kelvin Grads Organization. As Secretary of the Musical Comedy Guild since its inception her enthusiasm has contributed very much towards building the Guild into its present thriving condition.



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The MUSICAL COMEDY GUILD of Winnipeg

BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Chairman Clair Leatherdale
Vice-Chairman Halldor Kirby
Secretary Hildegard McLaren
Treasurer Ralph Morris

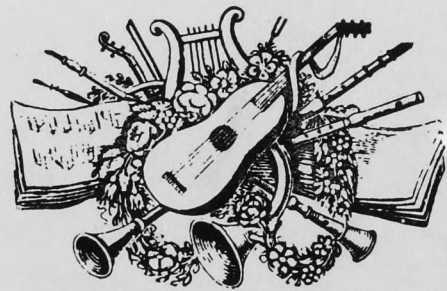
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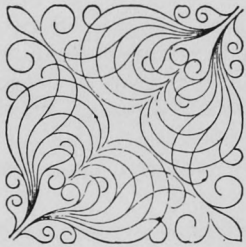
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The STORY BEHIND THE GUILD





Kelvin High School in Winnipeg has long been noted for its exceptional choirs and musical productions. The organization, now known as the Musical Guild of Winnipeg, stems from a group of young Kelvin graduates, enthusiastically interested in music.

In 1946, the Kelvin Grads Glee Club amalgamated with the Kelvin Grads Mixed Glee Club, a group which had been inactive during the war, when many of its members were in the Services. This group decided to produce Musical Comedies and in 1947, under the direction of Rene Hoole, successfully presented Gilbert and Sullivan's "Yeoman of the Guard," followed by "Patience" in 1948.

In December of 1948, the Grads presented "The Mikado" under the sponsorship of the Council of Social Agencies, and proceeds of this performance went to the Christmas Cheer Fund.

Jon Vickers, then making his debut before Winnipeg audiences, played the tenor lead in this production. Mr. Vickers is a recent winner of "Nos Etoile Future" and is now entering his final year of study with the Royal Conservatory of Music in Toronto. He promises to become one of Canada's most successful tenors.

In 1949, Mary Morrison, noted Canadian Soprano, returned from Toronto to sing the leading female role in "Naughty Marietta," the Grads' presentation of that year. This show was sponsored by the Lions Club of Winnipeg, and enjoyed a great success.

The Lions Club sponsored every succeeding show with profits going to their welfare work and Residence for the Blind in Win-

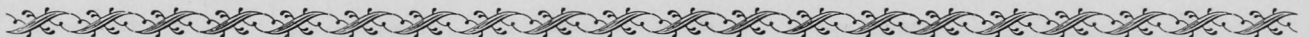
nipeg. "The Vagabond King," in 1950, starred Mary Morrison and Roy Firth, and was followed in 1951 by "Sweethearts" starring June Kowalchuk, winner of the 1950 "Singing Stars of Tomorrow" award.

The Kelvin Grads had formulated a policy of producing only fall shows as many of their group were involved in Musical Festival competition during the spring months. Several persons who had worked with preceding shows were of the opinion that Winnipeg needed a spring musical production and, under Lions Club sponsorship, a new group, The Musical Comedy Guild, was formed to present a spring show. This new organization drew its cast from the entire city of Winnipeg, and not from a smaller choral group, as did the Kelvin Grads.

In the spring of 1952, the Musical Comedy Guild presented "The Student Prince," directed by Rene Hoole and starring Jon Crain of "Der Fledermaus" fame, and Jean Ramsay, noted Winnipeg Soprano.

In November of the same year, the Kelvin Grads presented "Countess Maritza," starring John Drewry of New York and Cora James of Winnipeg, now of Vancouver. After this show the Kelvin Grads merged with the Musical Comedy Guild to form one strong organization dedicated to providing Winnipeg audiences with top quality musical entertainment.

The Guild operates under the sponsorship of the Lions Club of Winnipeg and the Board of Governors of the Guild comprises members both of the Lions Club and of the former Kelvin Grads. All profits are used by the Lions Club in their numerous welfare activities.





Danilo

ROBERT SHAFER

Robert Shafer, a native of the American Midwest, started his musical career with a quartet and then moved on to solo parts in the Beatrice Lillie Shows "At Home Abroad" and "The Show Is On" and in "Hooray For What" with Ed Wynn.

Since then, his experience in light opera has been varied and extensive. Shafer has played over fifty leading roles in this entertainment medium, plus creating the tenor lead in the original Broadway production of "The Song of Norway," which ran in New York for three years.

He has also appeared extensively on radio and television.

The role of Danilo is one particularly to his liking, having played it this past summer in Washington, D.C., with Irra Patina and also in Toronto's Musical Tent Theatre, Melody Fair.

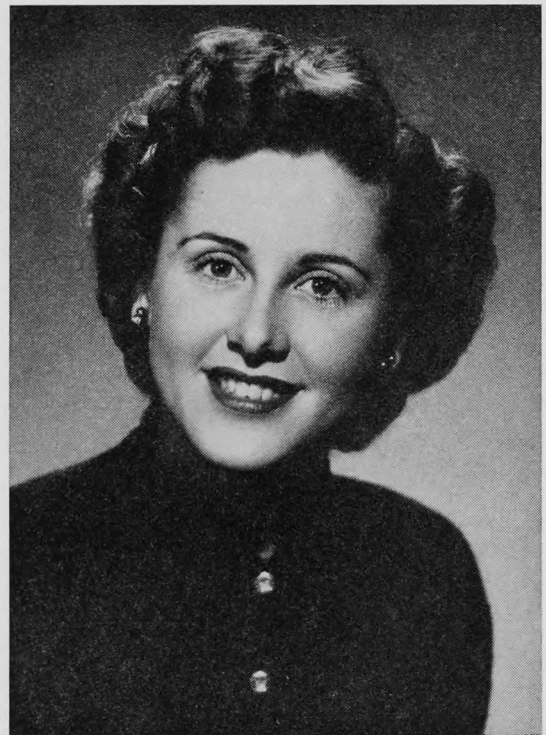
Mr. Shafer visited Winnipeg last spring when he was flown from New York to substitute for Donald Clarke who had contracted laryngitis. Donald Clarke recovered before Mr. Shafer's arrival but Shafer so impressed the Guild committee that he was immediately signed for "The Merry Widow."

Natalie

ELSIE HAUSEGGER

This is the first time that Elsie Hausegger has appeared in a Musical Comedy Guild production although most of her career has been with local musical groups. Elsie has studied with Mrs. Grace Lowery of Winnipeg and with the Blackstead Conservatoire in London, England.

She shows great promise in her role as Natalie and it is hoped that she will appear in other Guild productions.





Sonia

ELEANOR LUTTON

Miss Lutton has had a distinguished musical career both on this continent and in Europe. She has appeared in grand opera in Chicago and in operetta in Chicago, St. Louis and Dallas. This summer she was heard as "Sally" in "Call Me Madam," as "Julie" in "Showboat" and in a leading role in Fledermaus.

She has also had leading roles in Student Prince, Countess Maritza, Rose Marie, Blossom Time, Kiss Me Kate and Song of Norway. Her performance in Kiss Me Kate, Showboat and Song of Norway drew great acclaim from the critics.

Miss Lutton spent three years touring Europe in concert and operatic roles. Her operatic repertoire includes leading roles in La Traviata, Faust, Pagliacci, Cavalleria Rusticana, Otello, Madame Butterfly and La Boheme.

This is Miss Lutton's first appearance before a Canadian audience.

Baron Popoff

KEN BABB

This is the twenty-first comedy role that Mr. Babb has played in Winnipeg, and the sixth time that he has taken part in a Guild production. He is extremely popular with young Winnipeggers for his part in "Bill and Ken Read the Funnies," a radio show which he does with Bill Walker every Sunday morning on CKRC.

Mr. Babb gives his usual excellent performance in "The Merry Widow" and audiences will look forward to seeing him in future Guild productions.



The MERRY WIDOW

Lyrics by **ADRIAN ROSS**

Music by **FRANZ LAHAR**

★ ★ ★ ★

DRAMATIS PERSONAE

VICOMTE CAMILLE DE JOLIDON	Ted Alford
MARQUIS DE CASCADA	Doug O'Donnell
M. DE ST. BRIOCHE	William Pink
GENERAL NOVIKOVICH (Military Attache)	Robert Tweedie
M. KHADJA (Counsellor of Legation)	Sid Hibbard
NISCH (Messenger to the Legation)	Frank Gilrain
WAITER AT MAXIM'S	James Armstrong
AND	
PRINCE DANILO (Secretary of Legation)	Robert Shafer
AND	
BARON POPOFF (Marsovian Ambassador in Paris)	Ken Babb
NATALIE (Wife of Popoff)	Elsie Hausegger
OLGA (Wife of Novikovich)	Elaine Hamilton
SYLVAIN (Wife of Khadja)	Marilyn Mensforth
LOLO	Eyelyne Anderson
DODO	MARGOT
JOU-JOU	ZOZO
FROU-FROU	FIFI
CLO-CLO	
}	
Girls at Maxim's	
AND	
SONIA (the Merry Widow)	Eleanor Lutton

★ ★ ★ ★

ACT I

Scene: The Marsovian Embassy in Paris.

Time: Evening.

BARON POPOFF, Marsovian Ambassador in Paris, is very anxious that PRINCE DANILO marry the wealthy young Widow, SONIA SODOYA, whose money will save Marsovia from bankruptcy. Before her marriage, which had lasted but a short time, SONIA had been engaged to Danilo but the latter's uncle had forbidden him to marry a farmer's daughter. Now, the two meet again in Paris and DANILO promises that he will never again tell SONIA that he loves her.

ACT II

Scene: The garden of Sonia's residence in Paris.

Time: Early evening the next day.

In order to further his plan, POPOFF tells his wife, NATALIE, to flirt with CAMILLE de JOLIDON, who appears as the most likely Frenchman to win SONIA'S hand in marriage. NATALIE readily agrees, since she and JOLIDON are in love. POPOFF catches his wife and JOLIDON in the summerhouse together. When he calls them out, SONIA slips in the back way and takes NATALIE'S place. To the amazement of POPOFF and everyone else, SONIA announces her engagement to JOLIDON.

ACT III

Scene: Maxim's Cafe, Paris.

Time: Later the same night.

POPOFF follows DANILO to Maxim's Cafe to beg him, for the sake of his country, Marsovia, to appeal to SONIA to break her engagement and marry the Prince. DANILO refuses and says he is leaving Paris. When SONIA does appear, she discloses that she had taken NATALIE'S place in the summerhouse in order to get NATALIE out of an awkward situation. POPOFF and NATALIE are reconciled; DANILO breaks his promise to SONIA, by confessing his love for her. She readily accepts him, and all ends happily.



MUSICAL NUMBERS

ACT I

1. Opening Chorus
2. Ball Music
3. Duet (Natalie and Camille) "A Dutiful Wife"
4. Entrance Song (Sonia and Chorus) "In Marsovia"
5. Ball Music
6. Song (Danilo) "Maxim's"
7. Finale

ACT II

8. Opening Chorus, Dance and Song (Sonia) "Vilia"
9. Duet (Sonia and Danilo) "The Cavalier"
10. March Septet "Women"
11. Duet (Natalie and Camille)
12. Duet (Natalie and Camille)
And Romance (Danilo) "Love in My Heart"
13. Finale

ACT III

14. Opening Scene
15. Song (Lo-Lo and Chorus) "The Girls of Maxim's"
16. Valse Duet (Sonia and Danilo) "I Love You So"
17. Finale

ORCHESTRA

FILMER HUBBLE, Director

Violins: Victor Pomer
Richard Grymonpre
Eugene Kowalski
Emil Mignacca

Violins: Nick Huckles
Nels McMillan
Viola: Edward James
Cello: Robert Farrar

Bass: John Drewrys
Flute: Albert Horch
Clarinet: William Romanoff

Trumpet: Albert Simoens
Trombone: William Sanders
Percussion: Harold Hunter

MALE SINGERS

Jack Arklie
Allan Bowman
Kenneth Bowman

Charles Bouskill
Harold Bytheway
Bob Houston

Barry Hubble
Brian Hubble
Tom Kellett

Sydney Lecker
Lorenz Rosenthal
Cecil Spirito

Bill Turnbull
Jim Vernon
Doug Gibbon

FEMALE SINGERS

Betty Alexander
Irma Baumgartner
Valdine Douglas

Bernice Forster
Mary Johnson
Katherine Jordan

Olive Kablack
Marjorie Law
Margaret Morris

Jean Morrison
Roxie Pindar
Eileen Pujolis

Joyce Russell
Audrey Seaborn
Pat Siwek

DANCERS

Elaine Farmer
Joyce Farmer

Irene Carter
Shelagh Joy

Elizabeth Young
Sheila Peters

Jane Owens
Pat Leathers

COMMITTEES

Stage Manager Lloyd Borland

Stage Setting Designed and Executed by Jack Ross and Allan Waisman, M.R.A.I.C.

Assisted by: Jack Birch, Gerry Birch and Jim Spencer

Lighting Dick King and Gerry McKinley

Costumes Pearl Ward

Assisted by: Dave Garson, Marjorie Snowden

Properties Norma Garbutt

Assisted by: Catherine McKerchar, Lorraine
Beech

Make-up by Kelly

Prompter Betty Lewis

Call Girls Aileen Forster, Marilyn Puttee

Ushers T. J. Harrison

Tickets R. Pindar and Murray Gray

Program Howard Carter and Tom Fairley

Publicity George Prost and Allan Wiley

Producer Rene Hoole

Musical Director Filmer Hubble

Choreography Margaret Leggat

Costumes for Guild Productions are supplied by Mallabar, of Winnipeg
and Toronto

Program printed by Roscoe Company, Winnipeg



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TED ALFORD

Mr. Alford is an ex-R.A.F. pilot who upon taking up residence in Winnipeg after the war, became very active in local musical groups. He has taken part in several of the Spring Musical Festivals but this is the first time that he has had a lead in a Guild production.

Choreographer

MARGARET LEGGAT

Miss Leggat has done the choreography for several of the Daniel McIntyre musical productions. She studied national dancing under Gwenyth Lloyd and Majored in modern dance when she studied for her diploma in physical education at McGill University. She is presently teaching at Kelvin High School in Winnipeg. This is the first time that Miss Leggat has been associated with a Guild production.





Director

RENE HOOLE

Mr. Hoole has directed every production of the Kelvin Grads and Musical Comedy Guild. A dramatic student of the late Mrs. Claude C. Sinclair, he has taken part in stage productions for a number of years. When attending the University of Manitoba, he was a perennial lead in their annual Glee Club production and he has directed stage plays throughout Manitoba. Mr. Hoole is presently teaching at Kelvin High School in Winnipeg. The Musical Comedy Guild is indeed fortunate to have his enthusiastic services.

Musical Director

FILMER HUBBLE

Mr. Hubble is probably the best known of all local musical figures. His charm and sense of humour have endeared him to all who have worked with him.

He is a perennial director of Guild productions and also directs the St. Stephen's-Broadway Choir and the Young Women's Musical Club. Mr. Hubble has worked extensively with the University of Manitoba, the Winnipeg Musical Festival and the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation.

His unselfish enthusiasm has been an inspiration to all connected with the Guild.





Sets
JACK ROSS

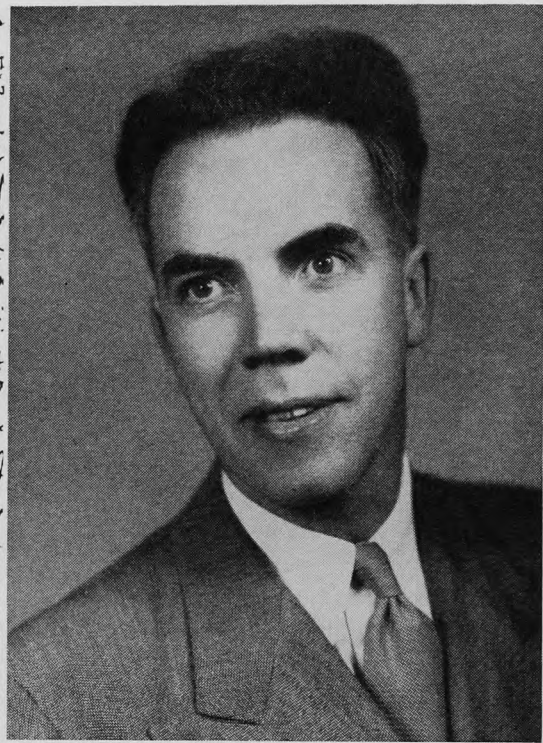


Make-up
KELLY



Accompanist **BETTY WILCOX**





Stage Manager
LLOYD BORLAND



Wardrobe Mistress
PEARL WARD



Properties **NORMA GARBUTT**



The Lions Club of Winnipeg has always made blind work its major project. In 1940 a great need had developed for a residence to accommodate the aged blind of this city. The Canadian National Institute for the Blind purchased a house on Cumberland Avenue and the renovation, decoration and furnishing was assumed by the Lions Club.

These facilities proved inadequate and the Lions Club made plans to erect a modern residence close to the Blind Institute. The citizens of Manitoba responded to a campaign for funds staged by the Club and the new residence on Portage Avenue was opened in August of 1949.

This building accommodates thirty-seven persons, most of them in private rooms. Included in the residence are dining room, lounge, sun room and auditorium. The building soon became a community centre for the blind of Greater Winnipeg.

It is through such projects as the Musical Comedy Guild, the Fun Parade and Rose Day, that the Lions Club are able to annually reduce the amount owing on this building. However, the waiting list grows increasingly longer and the Club is already planning an addition to the residence. Your continued support of Musical Comedy Guild productions will bring this to reality.



1947 Yeoman of the Guard

1948 Patience
The Mikado

1949 Naughty Marietta

1950 The Vagabond King

1951 Sweethearts

1952 The Student Prince
Countess Maritza

1953 Blossomtime
The Merry Widow

1954 Watch for
SHOWBOAT

April 12-13-14-15-16-17

For Advance Information

Be sure you are on our Mailing
List. Hand the coupon enclosed
in this program to one of the
ushers.



Acknowledgments

The Musical Comedy Guild is particularly indebted to the following for
their kind assistance:

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